WAYNE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Frequently Asked Questions About Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The Wayne Local School District offers healthy meals each school day. **The regular breakfast costs are: Elementary - $1.75, Junior/Senior High - $2.00. The cost for a regular Class A lunch is: Elementary - $3.00, Junior/Senior High - $3.25. However, your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced price for breakfast is $.30 and lunch is $.40; however, The State of Ohio FY25-FY26 biennial budget includes funding to cover the cost of providing no-cost breakfast and no-cost lunch to students qualifying for reduced-price meals for the 2025/26 school year. The State of Ohio will then reimburse the schools the reduced-price meal costs. In summary, your child(ren), (free or reduced) will not be charged for regular breakfast and lunch meals**

This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits and detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. **Who can receive free or reduced-price meals?** All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Ohio Works First (OWF); foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court; children participating in their school's Head Start program; and children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals. Also, your children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the federal income eligibility guidelines limits.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES 2025-2026			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	28,953	2,413	557
2	39,128	3,261	753
3	49,303	4,109	949
4	59,478	4,957	1,144
5	69,653	5,805	1,340
6	79,828	6,653	1,536
7	90,003	7,501	1,731
8	100,178	8,349	1,927
Each Additional Person:	10,175	848	196

2. **How do I know if my children qualify as homeless, migrant or runaway?** If members of your household lack a permanent address; are staying together in a shelter, hotel or other temporary housing arrangement; relocate on a seasonal basis or; children live with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household then the children may qualify as homeless, migrant or runaway. If you have not been told your children will receive free meals, please contact Jan Dworetsky at (513) 897-6971, ext. 1 or via email at jdworetsky@waynelocal.net to inform and see if they qualify.

3. **Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Use one free and reduced-price school meal application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete. It is important that you complete the application fully and provide all required information; otherwise, we cannot approve it. For your convenience, we prefer that you complete the application online through PaySchools Central at www.payschoolscentral.com. If you are unable to apply online, you can return the completed application via email at **jdworetsky@waynelocal.net.**

4. **Should I complete an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved already for free meals?** No, but please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from the eligibility notification, contact **Jan Dworetsky at jdworetsky@waynelocal.net or call (513) 897-6971, ext. 1** immediately.

5. **Can I apply online?** Yes. If possible, you are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application. The online application requirements are the same and will request the same information as the paper application. Visit www.payschoolscentral.com to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Jan Dworetsky at jdworetsky@waynelocal.net or call (513) 897-6971, ext 1 with any questions about the online application.

6. **My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to complete another application?** Yes. Your child's application is valid for that school year and for the start of this school year. You are required to submit a new application unless the school notified you that your child is eligible for the new school year.

7. **I receive Women, Infants and Children (WIC) benefits. Can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please submit a completed application.

8. **Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we also may ask you to send written proof.

9. **If I do not qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

10. **What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to the following contact person: Treasurer Carolyn Huber, Wayne Local Schools, 625 Dayton Road, Waynesville OH 45068 or email chuber@waynelocal.net.

11. **May I apply if someone else in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

12. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make $1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made $900, submit the report with the routine amount of $1,000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.

13. **What if some household members have no income to report?** Household members may not receive some types of income that are asked for you to report on the application or may not receive income at all. When this happens, please write a 0 in the corresponding field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those also will be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank.

14. **We are in the military. Do we report our income differently?** Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it also must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment also is excluded from income.

15. **What if there is not enough space on the application for my family?** List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application.

16. **Why am I being asked to give my consent for an instructional fee waiver?** Ohio public schools are required to waive the school instructional fees for children that quality for free meal benefits. School food service personnel must have parent consent to share the student meal application if your child(ren) quality for a fee waiver. If you agree to allow your child(ren)'s meal application to be shared with school officials to see if they qualify for a fee waiver then select **yes** in part 5. If you do not wish for that information to be shared, then select **no** in part 5. Answering no to this question will mean your child will not be considered for a fee waiver. Answering this question either way will not change your child(ren)'s free or reduced-price meal eligibility.

17. **My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for Ohio Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 877-852-0010.

Any questions, contact Jan Dworetsky at (513) 897-6971, ext 1 or by email at jdworetsky@waynelocal.net.